

precipitation step.

Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid is a bacterial or viral nucleic acid.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the biological sample is harvested from a mammal.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein the biological sample comprises cervical cells or cell debris.

Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 38, wherein the biological sample comprises breast cells or cell debris.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 16-28, 30, 31, and 36-40 have been rejected. Claims 29 and 32-35 are objected to. Claims 17-23 and 29 have been cancelled. Claims 16 and 24 have been amended. Examination and consideration of the claims are respectfully requested. No new matter has been added by way of amendment.

Rejections of Claims 16-28, 30, 31, and 36-40 Under 35 U.S.C. §102 Should be Withdrawn:

Claims 16-28, 30, 31, and 36-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by Gevaudant et al., Van Ness (USP 5,124,444), and under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Lai et al (USP 6,503,716). Applicant has amended claim 16 and cancelled claims 17-23 and 29, thereby obviating this rejection.

Claim Objections

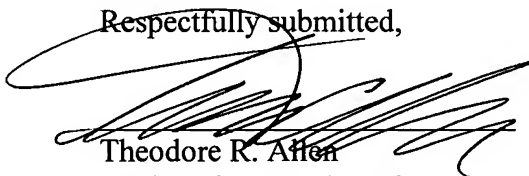
The Examiner objected to claims 29 and 32-35 as being in improper dependent form. Applicant has amended claim 16 and cancelled claims 17-23 and 29, thereby obviating this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 502855 referencing attorney docket number 11.019011.

Respectfully submitted,



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